Ps 817 quantitative research design
Professor Jon Pevehouse
M 1:20-3:30: Ogg Room, North Hall

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to discuss the nature of quantitative research designs in political science. We will discuss general issues concerning the philosophy of science and social science. We will spend most of our time however, on practical concerns with research design issues that tend to bedevil large-N projects. And while we do not have time to cover all possible problems in that area, we will spend a lot of time on what is now one of the key debates occupying many social scientists - the question of identification which often arises from the non-random assignment of treatment conditions in the social world.

Course Grade

Grades will be determined by course participation (20%), homework assignments (30%), and a final research design paper (50%).

Course Schedule

9/10 Introduction

9/17 Puzzles and Questions in Political Science

KKV, Chapters 1-2
Gerring, Chapters 1-2
Collier & Brady, Chapter 1 & Chapter 5


9/24 Evaluating Theories

Geering, Chapter 3


Brady, Chapter 11
Kevin Clarke and David Primo, “Modernizing Political Science: A Model-Based Approach,” *Perspectives on Politics* 5: 741-53.

10/1: NO CLASS!

10/8 Measurement and Validity/Concepts

Collier & Brady, Chapter 3

Gerring, Chapters 5-7

KKV, p. 150-168


10/15 Measurement and Error


10/22 Quantitative Problems! Part 1

KKV, Chapter 6

omitted variable bias


missing data problems/sample problems


data vintaging


10/29 Quantitative Problems! Part Deux

panel data


cointegration

fixed effects

Read responses to Green, Kim, and Yoon in *International Organization* 55 (2).

11/5 Causal Inference I

Collier and Brady, Chapters 2, 9 and 10.

Gerring, Chapters 8 and 9.

KKV, Chapter 3.


11/12 Causal inference II

Gerring, Chapters 10-11


http://www.iq.harvard.edu/blog/sss/archives/2010/10/can_matching_so.shtml

http://cyrussamii.com/?p=33


11/19 experiments and quasi-experiments

KKV, p. 185-99.


12/3 field experiments

Gerring, Chapter 12


Alan Gerber and Don Green, 2000, “The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment,” American Political Science Review 94 (3).


Rikhil Bhavnani, 2009, “Do Electoral Quotas Work After They are Withdrawn?” American Political Science Review (103) 1.

12/10 survey experiments


